

## **IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend the Claims as follows:

1.     **(Currently Amended)**     A seal-separator conjugation for a fuel cell which clamps a membrane electrode assembly sandwiching ~~both surfaces of~~ a polymer electrode membrane, comprising seals on a front surface and a rear surface of the separator, wherein the seals are located at least at one end of the separator, wherein ~~said each seal has a fitting construction~~ is fitted to a corresponding neighboring seal formed on a neighboring separator or a neighboring membrane electrode assembly, wherein the seal on the separator is a protrusion having a trapezoid cross-section and the neighboring seal on the neighboring separator is a recess having a shape corresponding to the protrusion, a top part of the protrusion being brought into contact with the recess when the fuel cell is assembled.

2.     **(Canceled)**

3.     **(Original)**     The seal-separator conjugation according to claim 1, wherein the seal formed on the front surface and the seal formed on the rear surface are made of different rubber materials.

4.     **(Original)**     The seal-separator conjugation according to claim 3, wherein the seal formed on the surface of the separator at the air passage side is made of a rubber material having oxygen resistance and the seal formed on the surface of the separator at the coolant passage side is made of a rubber material having resistance to a coolant.

5.     **(Currently Amended)**     The seal-separator conjugation according to claim 1, which possesses a seal portion for a communication pore of the separator, which

coats ~~the inside~~ an inner side of the communication pore, and an outer circumference seal portion, which coats portions from the an outer circumference side of the communication pore to the outer circumference of the separator.

6. **(Original)** The seal-separator conjugation according to claim 5, wherein said separator and said seal portions are adhered by an insulating primer/adhesive.

7. **(Currently Amended)** The seal-separator conjugation according to ~~any one of claims~~ claim 1 and ~~3-6~~, wherein said seal has at least one pore ~~originated from the mold~~ configured for positioning the seal for forming the conjugation in a vertical direction relative to the ~~direction of the~~ front and rear surfaces of the separator.

8. **(Original)** The seal-separator conjugation according to claim 7, wherein said pore is sealed with an insulating material.

9. **(Withdrawn)** A process for producing a seal-separator conjugation for a fuel cell having seals on a front surface and a rear surface of the separator at least at one end of the separator, which comprises:

a pre-forming stage for pre-forming a rubber material or rubber materials into pre-formed seals;

a sandwiching stage for inserting a separator between said pre-formed seals;  
and

a vulcanizing stage for vulcanizing the pre-formed seals into the final seals while maintaining said pre-formed seals and said separator.

10. **(Withdrawn)** The process according to claim 9, wherein said seal-separator conjugation possesses a seal portion for a communication pore, which coats the inside of the communication pore, and an outer circumference seal portion, which

coats portions from the outer circumference of the communication pore to the outer circumference of the separator, wherein an insulating rubber composition is used to pre-form said seal portion for a communication pore and said outer circumference seal portion in said pre-forming stage; and wherein said separator and said pre-formed seals are adhered with an insulating primer-adhesive in sandwiching stage.

11. **(Withdrawn)** A process for producing a seal-separator conjugation for a fuel cell having seals on a front surface and a rear surface of the separator at least at one end of the separator, which comprises:

a pre-forming stage for pre-forming a rubber material or rubber materials into pre-formed seals within a mold having at least one supporting member for positioning said seal;

a sandwiching stage for inserting a separator between said pre-formed seals;  
and

a vulcanizing stage for vulcanizing the pre-formed seals into the final seals while maintaining said pre-formed seals and said separator.

12. **(Withdrawn)** A seal-membrane electrode assembly conjugation for a fuel cell which is sandwiched by a separator and clamps a membrane electrode assembly, comprising seals on a front surface and a rear surface of the membrane electrode assembly at least at one end of the separator.

13. **(Withdrawn)** The seal- membrane electrode assembly conjugation according to claim 12, wherein said seal has a fitting construction fitted to a seal formed on a neighboring separator.

14. **(Withdrawn)** The seal-membrane electrode assembly conjugation according to claim 12, wherein the seal formed on the front surface and the seal formed on the rear surface are made of different rubber materials.

15. **(Withdrawn)** The seal-membrane electrode assembly conjugation according to claim 14, wherein the seal formed on the surface of the membrane electrode assembly at the air passage side is made of a rubber material having oxygen resistance and the seal formed on the surface of the membrane electrode assembly at the coolant passage side is made of a rubber material having resistance to a coolant.

16. **(Withdrawn)** The seal-membrane electrode assembly conjugation according any one of claims 12 to 15, wherein said seal has at least one pore originated from the mold for forming the conjugation in a vertical direction to the direction of the front and rear surfaces of the separator.

17. **(Withdrawn)** A process for producing a seal-membrane electrode assembly conjugation for a fuel cell which is sandwiched by a separator and clamps a membrane electrode assembly, comprising seals on a front surface and a rear surface of the membrane electrode assembly at least at one end of the separator, which comprises:

- a pre-forming stage for pre-forming a rubber material or rubber materials into pre-formed seals;

- a sandwiching stage for inserting a membrane electrode assembly between said pre-formed seals; and

- a vulcanizing stage for vulcanizing the pre-formed seals into the final seals while maintaining said pre-formed seals and said membrane electrode assembly.

18. **(Withdrawn)** A process for producing a seal-membrane electrode assembly conjugation for a fuel cell which is sandwiched by a separator and clamps a membrane electrode assembly, comprising seals on a front surface and a rear surface of the membrane electrode assembly at least at one end of the separator, which comprises:

a pre-forming stage for pre-forming a rubber material or rubber materials into pre-formed seals within a mold having at least one supporting member for positioning said seal;

a sandwiching stage for inserting a membrane electrode assembly between said pre-formed seals; and

a vulcanizing stage for vulcanizing the pre-formed seals into the final seals while maintaining said pre-formed seals and said membrane electrode assembly.